

Regional Haze Rule and Fire

Introduction

- 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments
 - ◆ Congress recognized that haze is a regional issue
 - ◆ GCVTC was formed to advise EPA on strategies for protecting visibility
 - ◆ GCVTC report to EPA included 8 recommendations for minimizing emissions and visibility impacts from prescribed fire

Introduction

- 1996-7 Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) formed
- Fire Emissions Joint Forum (FEJF) one of several forums formed to assist WRAP
- FEJF products used by states/tribes to develop implementation plans

Introduction

- 1999 Regional Haze Rule (RHR) issued
 - ◆ Section 309 of the RHR includes all of the GCVTC recommendations on fire
 - ◆ Section 309 applies to wildfire, wildland fire, prescribed fire, and agricultural burning on Federal, State, and private lands

Section 309 Requirements

- Section 309 calls for:
 - ◆ Fire programs to evaluate/address degree of visibility impairment from smoke in planning/application

Section 309 Requirements

- Smoke management programs that include at a minimum:
 - ◆ Actions to minimize emissions
 - ◆ Evaluation of smoke dispersion
 - ◆ Alternatives to fire
 - ◆ Public notification

Smoke Mgmt Programs, cont

- Air quality monitoring
- Surveillance and enforcement, and
- Program evaluation

Section 309 Requirements

- Inventory and emissions tracking system
- Identification and removal wherever feasible of administrative barriers to the use of alternatives to burning

Section 309 Requirements

- Enhanced smoke management programs that consider visibility effects
- Establishment of annual emission goals for fire, excluding wildfire, that will minimize emission increases from fire to maximum extent feasible

Enhanced Smoke Management Programs

- RHR calls for Enhanced Smoke Management Programs that are based on:
 - ◆ Efficiency, economics, law, emission reduction opportunities, land management objectives, and reduction of visibility impact

Utah's Enhanced Smoke Management Program

- Utah ESMP will include smoke management components plus:
 - ◆ Burn authorization
 - ◆ Regional Coordination

Annual Emissions Goals

- ◆ Annual emission goals (AEG) will achieve the minimum emission increase from fire
- ◆ Minimum emission increase from fire is accomplished through use of Emission Reduction Techniques (ERT)

Application of AEG

- Numeric target will be established for the use of ERTs on project specific basis (operational level)
- Targets will be established in cooperation with federal land management agencies and private entities on a yearly basis
- Target will be determined for next year's upcoming projects (probably developed in fall/winter)